

(a) whether any export oriented units have been set up in the country particularly in Gujarat and Bihar particularly in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof location-wise;

(c) if not the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of such States where export oriented units have been set up, State-wise and location-wise;

(e) the details of those units which have fulfilled their export commitments and their earning from exports;

(f) the details of such units which have failed to fulfil their export commitments and the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the performance of these export oriented units and to fulfil their export commitments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (g) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of Gold Biscuits

4274. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized gold biscuits weighing 62 Kg. worth over Rs. 3.21 crore in Delhi on December 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of the seizure;

(c) the number and details of gold seizures made by DRI and other enforcement investigating, intelligence or security agencies in the country during 1996; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent gold smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Acting on specific intelligence, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 531 gold biscuits weighing 61.93 Kgs. valued at Rs. 312.00 lakhs on 26.12.1996 from a Maruti Gypsy. Two persons have been arrested and remanded to judicial custody in this regard.

(c) and (d) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has during 1996 seized gold weighing 182 Kg. worth Rs. 936 lakhs in 20 cases. During the same period 890 Kgs. of gold worth Rs. 4616 Lakhs has been seized by other Anti-Smuggling agencies (figures are provisional). Steps taken to prevent smuggling of gold includes further liberalization

of gold imports under Passenger Baggage scheme, besides high alert being maintained by anti-smuggling agencies to detect and prevent smuggling of gold into the country by surveillance over sensitive areas, targeting of intelligence and use of sophisticated equipments like metal detectors, colour baggage X-Ray machine etc.

[Translation]

Recommendation of Chellaiah and Rekhi Committee

4275. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM has stated in its Memorandum submitted to the Government that a Custom and Excise Duty Settlement Commission should be set up immediately on the recommendations of Chellaiah and Rekhi Committee; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is still under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

[English]

Export of Handicrafts

4276. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts has explored problems faced by Handicraft Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has identified the infrastructural problems faced by the handicraft centres which mainly relate to the areas like frequent power cuts, lack of telecommunication facilities, bad condition of roads, distant location of passport offices & foreign post offices, inadequate Rail & Air transport facilities, availability of seasoning plants for wood etc.

The remedial action is an on-going process. However, the action recently taken by the Government, inter-alia, include; setting up of telephone exchange with 4000 lines at Moradabad, earmarking Rs. 50.00 lakh for establishing a growth centre at village Chaudharpur in Moradabad by

Government of Uttar Pradesh, provision of Rs. 10.00 crores by the central Government for establishing a separate electrical grid for meeting the power requirements of Moradabad.

Also action has been taken to set up wood seasoning plants and common facilities service centres at Tirupati, Jodhpur, Trivandrum, Mysore & Chennapatna. Besides, three seasoning plants have been set up at Saharanpur.

Branches of Nationalised Banks and RRBs in Gujarat

4277. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of nationalised banks and rural banks functioning in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to open the branches of these banks in every district and village in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of branches of Nationalised Banks and Regional Rural Banks functioning in Gujarat as at the end of March 1994, March 1995 and March 1996 are given below :

Period	Nationalised Bank branches	Regional Rural Bank branches
March 1994	2229	428
March 1995	2231	429
March 1996	2245	424

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India have reported that having broadly achieved the objectives of providing adequate banking infrastructure with branch network of over 60,000 at the end of 1985-90, it was decided that there was no need to evolve any branch expansion programme with specific targets, such as, population coverage, as was being done in the past. Accordingly, in the 1990-95 Branch Expansion Programme and thereafter, the decision to open branches at centres of their choice has been left to the discretion of individual banks.

RBI has further reported that on the basis of proposals received during the period 1.4.95 to 28.2.97 from the banks, 37 centres have been allotted to Nationalised Banks

and 5 centres to Regional Rural Banks for opening branches in Gujarat.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

4278. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has modern gadgets installed such as computer, telex, teleprinting etc. which are in Roman script and these are being converted into bilingual;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets likely to be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi likely to be promote projected

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region ('A' where work has to be done cent per cent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons of for giving such as exemption ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) Modern gadgets such as computer and telex machines have been installed in the Ministry of Textiles and are functioning bilingually.

The use of these gadgets bilingually facilitates the progressive use of Hindi in official work.

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Permission to Proceed Against FIs

4279. DR. B.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made obligatory to seek its permission by premier investigating agencies before proceeding against Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the financial institutions against which investigating agencies have sought permission to proceed against them; and

(c) in how many cases permission have been given or denied by the Government during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a)